

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 227

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION To recognize Jerry Ivey on the occasion of his retirement from American Health Centers, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Ivey is one such estimable person who has served with probity for twenty-five years with American Health Centers, Inc. and its preceding companies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ivey began his professional career as a teacher, later serving as a coach and as a principal; in 1976, he left the field of education to join Ayers and Associates as administrator of the Decatur County Manor; and

WHEREAS, A talented leader, he was active in the development and operation of new facilities for the company; in 1981, he was promoted to become a Director and Vice President; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Jerry Ivey played an important role in the merging of Ayers and Associates into American Health Centers, Inc., and the immense value of his leadership did not go overlooked as he was selected as President of the Tennessee Division of his new company; and

WHEREAS, Only two years after the merger, Mr. Ivey became President of American Health Centers, Inc.; under his guidance, the company thrived over the next decade, and he was elected Chairman of the Board in 1998; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Jerry Ivey saw the company grow from a single 60-bed facility to what is now a 35-facility nursing home chain with three assisted-living facilities and numerous other health care businesses; and

WHEREAS, This noteworthy businessman will long be remembered by his friends and associates for his tireless work ethic, visionary leadership, and tremendous character; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ivey's successor as President and Chairman of the Board, James M. Smith, praised his predecessor and said, "He has made contributions to this company too numerous to mention. Jerry will be missed by us all"; and

WHEREAS, His professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Ivey is committed to the highest ideals of family values, and he is very grateful for the great love and companionship that he shares with his beloved wife, Mary; he is a proud father and loving grandfather, and, as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement, he plans to devote much of his time to his grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Ivey exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his estimable career, Mr. Ivey has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike; and

WHEREAS, His departure from the business community of Tennessee leaves a void that will not easily be filled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to Jerry Ivey our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, reflecting fondly upon his admirable service with American Health Centers, Inc, and we wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.